Report on Indian Imports and Exports by Institute of Studies in Industrial Development

442. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Instiute of Studies in Industrial Development has submitted a report named "Indian Imports and Exports, some insights" in March, 1991 to his Ministry;

(b) whether Government have sutdied the report and if so, what is its reaction thereto;

(c) whether the report points out that the several companies with foreign collaborations in India are sources of severe foreign exchange drain; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that these companies become positive foreign exchange earners for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The report is being examined, Government are taking steps to improve the system of data collection and maintenance relating to imports, for macro-economic management and decision making. The introduction of the EXIM Scrip scheme under the new Trade Policy links imports to export earnings capacity of the economy and will help to meet demand for foreign exchange by encouraging export earnings.

Improvement in India's Foreign Exchange Reserve

443. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what factors have resulted in the improvement in India's foreign exchange reserve;

(b) whether this speaks of any improvement of strength of India's economy; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Improvemnet in India's foreign exchange reserve is the net result of several factors on trade account, on account of invisibles and on capital account. Among the important factors contributing to improvement in the foreign exchange reserves are: inflows under capital account from International Monetary Fund, a reduction in outflows on account of NRI deposits, inflows on account of development bonds; under invisibles account, inflows under remittances on account of Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme; and under trade account, import compression measures.

(b) and (c) Most of the above factors reflect the confidence in the management of economy—in particular the stabilisation programme and initiation of structural reforms. The restoration of confidence in the economy is attributable to various steps taken by the Government to tackle the crisis and put the economy back on a path of sustainable growth. These measures include macro economic stabilisation in the short run through exchange rate adjustment, restoration of fiscal discipline and tight monetary policy, together with structural reforms in trade policy and industrial policy.

Details of NRI Deposits

444. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the figures of NRI deposits separately for rupee account and foreign currency accounts for the period Februray, 1991 to October, 1991 month-wise?